(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMAITON AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Indian Broadcasting (Programme) Service has already been notified on 5.11.1990.

[*English*]

Harijans of Gujarat

1661. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the entire Harijan population of village Chitrodipur, Mehsana in Gujarat have migrated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in consultation with the State Government to give justice to them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). A report on the reported migration of the Scheduled Castes of village Chitrodipur, Mehsana, Gujarat has been called for from the State Government of Gujarat.

Home Direct Service to other Countries by M.T.N.L.

1662. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) introduced 'Home Direct Service', to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries for which this Service has been introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Details are given in the attached Statement.

STATEMENT

The service has been introduced to 8 countries with effect from 1-11-91, as detailed below:-

		Access Code		
1.	U.S.A.	000	11	7
2.	U.K.	000	441	7
3.	JAPAN	000	811	7
4.	ITALI	000	391	7
5.	SPAIN	000	341	7
6.	SINGAPORE	000	651	7
7.	NETHERLANDS	000	311	7
8.	CANADA	000	16	7

Call to any of these 8 countries can be made from any telephone with STD/ISD facility by dialling the above access codes. The service will also be available on dedicated telephones installed at important places of tourist interests, Air Ports, Five Star Hotels and Telephone Bureaus.

2. On dialling the required code, the call will be answered by the operator at the distant and who will put through the call to the required number on "Collect Call" basis after confirmation from the called number. In respect of calls to USA, AT&T cards can be used.

3. The tariff for each effective call from a dedicated phone will be Rs. 10/- and in case in Dial-up calls the charges will be one metering unit per effective calls.

Improvement of Telephone Facilities in North Bengal Area

1663. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve telephone facilities in North Bengal area; and

(b) the details of the work done in the above area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The large and medium capacities telephone exchanges in North Bengal area have been planned for replacement by electronic exchanges during the 8th plan period alongwith provision of STD facilities. In addition, most of the small exchanges are also planned for replacement by electronic exchange progressively during the 8th Plan period.

(b) Details of the work done in the above area is as under:-

(i) STD facilities have been introduced at Siliguri, Darjeeling, Coochbehar, Kalimpong, Kursoong, Bagdogra, Malda, Raniganj and Balurghat.

(ii) Exchange capacities at Coochbehar, Silliguri, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Bagdogra, Malda and Balurghat have been increase to meet the demands during the last few years.

(iii) A 600 lines auto exchange has been commissioned at Raniganj with STD facility replacing the manual exchange.

(iv) 19 smaller electronic exchanges have been commissioned.

[*Translation*]

Pension to Widows Handicapped and Old Aged

1664. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quota for all the Members of Parliament to recommend pension to widows, handicapped and old age pension